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**From:** Goldfarb Gabriela [GABRIELA.G.GOLDFARB@dhsosha.state.or.us]  
**Sent:** 3/3/2020 12:37:52 AM  
**To:** Barber, Anthony [Barber.Anthony@epa.gov]; Emme David H [DAVID.H.EMME@dhsosha.state.or.us]  
**CC:** Ourso Andre [ANDRE.OURSO@dhsosha.state.or.us]; Hamade Ali K [ALI.K.HAMADE@dhsosha.state.or.us]  
**Subject:** Heads up - EPA invitation March 18 - nitrates and groundwater in the lower Umatilla Basin

Hello Dave:

I just got off the phone with Tony Barber, director of EPA's Oregon Operations Office. I think all of you know EPA received a Safe Drinking Water Act petition to take action on nitrates in the lower Umatilla basin. (Here is a [media story](#).)

Tony reached out today about convening a meeting March 18 with DEQ (Justin Green and Linda Hayes-Gorman, Eastern Region Administrator), ODA (Stephanie Page and I can't remember who else), and OHA

Based on calendars it looks like you may have availability to participate.

Will let the two of you take it from here.

Best,

Gabriela

p.s. Tony, here are some talking points we put together at the time of the announcement, in case we got media requests:

- OHA regulates public water systems to ensure the water supplied to residents meets all standards. If nitrate levels exceed safe levels, public water suppliers are required to issue advisories to notify the public and to take necessary corrective action. There are public water systems that have been impacted by nitrates in the Lower Umatilla Basin and some have had to install additional treatment or drill new wells.
- For domestic (private) well, OHA recommends testing yearly testing for nitrate. Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L (10 ppm) most likely means that surface contamination has found its way into the well. In this case, well owners should identify and remove any possible sources of nitrates near the well (fertilizers, animal waste, septic system, etc.) and contact a licensed well constructor to inspect the well for possible repairs and/or treatment options.

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